

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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R 100300Z DEC 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6911

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE HINTS AT CHEKIANG PURGE

1. A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE DECEMBER 9, AUTHORED BY THE MASS CRITICISM GROUP OF THE CHEKIANG PARTY PROPAGANDA AND ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENTS, OUTLINES THE CRIMES OF THE GANG OF FOUR AND OF THEIR (UNNAMED) TOP AGENT IN THAT PROVINCE. THIS "EVIL CHIEFTAIN," ACTING ON THE ORDERS OF WANG HUNG-WEN, IS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH SEIZING THE "FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY" OF THE ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN TO HURRIEDLY INDUCT A LARGE NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND TO PROMOTE LARGE NUMBERS OF CADRES. THIS WAS ALLEGEDLY DONE IN VIOLATION OF THE REGULATIONS ON PARTY-BUILDING, ACCORDING TO THE SOLE CRITERION OF WHETHER OR NOT A POTENTIAL PARTY MEMBER OR CADRE WAS GOOD AT "GOING AGAINST THE TIDE." THE OBJECTIVE, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WAS TO PACK THE CHEKIANG PARTY ORGANIZATION WITH SUPPORTERS OF THE GANG OF FOUR.

2. WANG HUNG-WEN IS SAID TO HAVE TRIED TO MAKE HIS TOP AGENT AND HIS FRIENDS DEPUTY SECRETARIES OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE, BUT THE ARTICLE DOES NOT

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STATE WHETHER OR NOT THIS ATTEMPT WAS SUCCESSFUL.

THE AUTHORS ALSO CLAIM THAT THIS "CHIEFTAIN" WAS PERSONALLY SINGLED OUT BY CHAIRMAN MAO FOR CRITICISM, BUT WAS PROTECTED BY WANG HUNG-WEN. PARTICULARLY DURING MAO'S ILLNESS AND AFTER HIS DEATH, WANG IS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO TRANSFER A NUMBER OF CADRES IN ORDER TO TAKE CONTROL OF KEY POSITIONS IN THE PROVINCE.

3. COMMENT: ANALYSTS WITH MORE COMPLETE FILES MAY BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE RADICALS' CHEKIANG "CHIEFTAIN," WHO IS NO DOUBT RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF PARTY FIRST SECRETARY TAN CHI-LUNG'S RECENT DIFFICULTIES. MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN HIS IDENTITY, HOWEVER, IS THE IMPLICATION THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF CADRES AND PARTY MEMBERS WERE ILLEGALLY APPOINTED. SUCH A CHARGE WOULD SEEM TO OPEN THE WAY FOR A LARGE-SCALE PURGE OF PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN CHEKIANG PROVINCE, AND COULD WELL BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE WHERE SIMILAR ABUSES MUST HAVE OCCURRED.

GATES

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